

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 12 through 18, 20, 23 through 26, 28 through 34, 36 through 38, and 40 through 50 are pending, with Claims 12, 23, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, and 44 being independent. Claims 12 through 18, 20, 23 through 26, 28 through 34, 36 through 38, and 40 through 43 were allowed. Claim 44 has been amended. Claims 46 through 50 have been added.

Claims 44 and 45 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over various combinations of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,659,188 (Kreitzer, et al.), 6,016,228 (Uzawa, et al.) and 6,226,130 B1 (Mukaiya, et al.), with all rejections relying upon Kreitzer, et al. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 44 recites, inter alia, the combination of (i) the specified aspheres and (ii) that the first lens unit does not move for zooming.

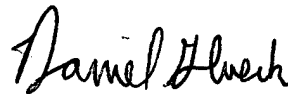
However, Applicant respectfully submits that Kreitzer, et al. fails to disclose at least the above-discussed claimed combination of features as recited, inter alia, in Claim 44, and there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in Uzawa, et al. or Mukaiya, et al. that would lead the artisan to turn to those documents to attempt to remedy such deficiencies, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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